

**CLAIMS**

1. The use of L-carnitine or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts for the preparation of a medicine useful for reducing the number of deaths caused by acute myocardial infarction and for improving the short- and long-term prognosis in the patients treated with it, in which L-carnitine is administered intravenously within the first few hours of onset of the symptoms of acute myocardial infarction at an initial dose of 9 grams a day for 5 days, after which the treatment is continued as a dose of 4 grams a day by mouth.  
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2. Use of L-carnitine or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts in combination with one or more known drugs, and/or known mechanical and/or surgical techniques, which alone would fail to reduce the number of deaths in infarct victims, for the preparation of a medicine useful for reducing the number of deaths caused by acute myocardial infarction and for improving the short and long-term prognosis in the patients treated, in which L-carnitine is administered intravenously within the first few hours of onset of the symptoms of acute myocardial infarction at an initial dose of 9 grams a day for 5 days, after which the treatment is continued at a dose of 4 grams a day by mouth.  
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3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, in which L-carnitine is administered intravenously within 6 hours of onset of the symptoms of acute myocardial infarction.

4. Use according to claim 1 or 2, in which L-carnitine is administered intravenously within 4 hours of onset of the symptoms of acute myocardial infarction.

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5. Use according to claims 1-4 in which the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-carnitine is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, orotate, aspartate, acid aspartate, acid citrate, magnesium citrate, phosphate, acid phosphate, fumarate and acid fumarate, magnesium fumarate, lactate, maleate and acid maleate, oxalate, acid oxalate, pamoate, acid pamoate, sulphate, acid sulphate, glucose phosphate, tartrate and acid tartrate, glycerophosphate, mucate, magnesium tartrate, 2-amino-ethane sulphonate, magnesium 2-amino-ethane sulphonate, methane sulphonate, choline tartrate, trichloroacetate, and trifluoroacetate.

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6. Use according to claim 2, in which the drug which alone would fail to reduce the number of deaths in infarct victims is selected from the group consisting of beta-blockers, calcium antagonists, aspirin, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, or ACE inhibitors.

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7. Use according to claim 6, in which the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of: alacepril, benazepril, benazeprilat, captopril, ceronapril, cilazapril, delapril, enalapril, enaprilat, fosinopril, imidapril, indolapril, lisinopril, moveltipril, perindopril, pentopril, pivalopril, quinapril, ramipril, spirapril, temocapril, trandolapril or zofenopril.

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8. Use according to claim 6, in which the calcium antagonist is selected from the group consisting of dilthiazem, nifedipine, verapamil, nicardipine or nimodipine.

10 9. Use according to claim 2, in which the mechanical technique is angioplasty and the surgical technique by-pass.

10. Use according to claim 1 or 2, in which the L-carnitine for oral administration is in the form of tablets, capsules, powders, granules, syrups, elixirs, suspensions or solutions.

15 11. Use according to claim 1 or 2, in which the L-carnitine for intravenous administration is in the form of suspensions or solutions in suitable vehicles.

12. Use according to claim 11, in which the vehicle is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, saline solution or glucose solution.

20 13. Use according to claim 2, in which the combination can be administered in a single pharmaceutical composition combining the active ingredients in a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

14. Use according to claim 2, in which the active ingredients can be administered separately in parallel or in sequence.

15. Use according to claim 2, in which the active ingredients present in the combination can be administered in any suitable dosage form or combinations thereof.

5           16. Use according to claim 2, in which the combination is in the form of a kit combining the active ingredients, separately, in a single pack.

10           17. Use according to claim 16, in which the kit components are administered by different routes and/or at different times.